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Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks

NEWS

OCTOBER 1998

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WATERFOWL SEASON TO OPEN OCTOBER 3

The 1998 hunting season for both ducks and geese will open at one-half hour before sunrise on October 3.

The duck hunting season in the **Pacific Flyway** will run from October 3 - January 16, 1999. In the **Central Flyway**, the season dates for the duck hunting season are October 3 - January 7, 1999.

The goose hunting season in the **Pacific Flyway** will run from October 3 - January 10, 1999. In the **Central Flyway** the goose hunting season will run from October 3 - January 16, 1999.

Hunters should check current regulations for daily and possession duck and goose limits. Daily hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to ***sunset.***

FWP'S PREFERENCE 2001 ADVISORY COMMITTEE EXPLORING SPECIAL DRAWING BONUS POINTS

FWP has established the Preference 2001 Advisory Committee to explore a "bonus point preference system" for hunters who apply for Montana's hunting licenses awarded through annual special drawings. Under consideration is a system that would allow a bonus point to be earned each year a hunter is unsuccessful in the special license drawing. Bonus points would apply to the same type of license the following year. These points essentially amount to the additional number of times a hunter's application would be entered into that year's drawing pool. The preference system, which would take effect in 2001 if the 1999 Legislature approves it, will be considered by the FWP Commission on November 6, 1998. For more information, contact FWP, PO Box 200701, Helena, Montana 59620-0701, or call 406-444-3792. Internet users may contact FWP at fwp.state.mt.us

PHEASANT SEASON TO OPEN OCTOBER 10

The ring-necked pheasant season opens statewide in Montana at one-half hour before sunrise on Saturday, October 10. The daily limit is three roosters (males), with a possession limit of 9.

Successful hunters must leave one leg and (new this year) foot naturally attached to field-dressed pheasants for identification purposes.

STATE LANDS LICENSES NEEDED

Hunters headed afield in 1998 should remember that they must purchase a State Lands Recreational Use License if they plan to hunt on accessible state school trust lands. Licenses are available at all FWP offices and FWP license agents across the state.

RESPECT IS THE KEY TO HUNTING ON PRIVATE LANDS

When heading afield for the 1998 hunting seasons, please remember to always "Ask First" before entering private property. In Montana, if you're hunting big game, it's not only respectful, it's the law. Also:

* Be extremely careful with fire;
* Leave gates as you found them;
* Be careful not to litter, and pick up any litter you may find along the way;
* Follow the landowner's instructions about where and what type of game you may hunt;
* Drive only on established roads.

DEER LICENSE VALIDATION REQUIREMENT CONTINUED FOR 1998

In setting 1998 seasons and regulations, the FWP Commission continued the validation requirement for hunting mule deer bucks in Montana. That requirement states that: ALL hunters who purchase a Deer A license must decide where in the state they would like to hunt -- either in any one of eight individual Hunting Areas in southwestern Montana, collectively referred to as the "Southwestern 8," OR in the remainder of the state, and that they have their license validated according to their choice.

TURN IN POACHERS
MAKE THE CALL!!
1-800-TIP-MONT

Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks

NEWS

SEPTEMBER 1998

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1998 HUNTING SEASONS BEGIN

Upland game bird season got underway in Montana on Tuesday, September 1, and this fall's big game special archery season opens on Saturday, September 5. Backcountry elk and deer seasons open on September 15, while the 1998 pheasant, waterfowl, antelope and general big game seasons open in October.

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR SURPLUS LICENSES

Applications for elk permits, doe-fawn antelope and deer B licenses remaining after the annual special license and permit drawings are now being accepted through the mail by the FWP License Section in Helena. These permits and licenses will be offered first-come, first-served from Helena beginning September 2. Applications for these "surplus" licenses are available at all license agents and all FWP offices.

BOWHUNTERS -- TAKE NOTE OF NEW 1998 REGULATION

When the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission set seasons and regulations for deer hunting in Montana during 1998, it eliminated hunting for either-sex mule deer *during the special archery-only season* in many hunting districts throughout the state. In other words, **antlerless mule deer can not be taken legally by bowhunters in the majority of hunting districts during 1998.**

Regulations for bowhunters during the special early season for most districts now state "antlered buck, either species," or " mule deer, either-sex whitetail" as legal game during the archery-only season.

DEER VALIDATION REQUIREMENT CONTINUED FOR 1998

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BLACK BEAR LICENSES NO LONGER AVAILABLE

The 1998 fall black bear hunting season opens in most areas of Montana on September 15, and in a change to regulations that took effect this year, hunters who plan to take part in the fall hunt must have purchased their licenses by **August 31.** No more black bear licenses will be sold for this fall's season.

Both the spring (licenses had to be purchased by April 14) and fall black bear license purchase deadlines instituted this year have been designed to reduce illegal hunting of bears and, thereby, aid the overall health of our bear populations.

STATE LANDS LICENSES NEEDED

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